

**Senate File 85 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 85  
BY SINCLAIR

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for the protection of rabbits from  
2 mistreatment, and making penalties applicable.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 717.1, subsection 4, Code 2021, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 4. a. "*Livestock*" means an animal belonging to the bovine,  
4 caprine, equine, ovine, or porcine species; ostriches, rheas,  
5 or emus; rabbits; farm deer as defined in [section 170.1](#); or  
6 poultry.

7 b. "*Livestock*" does not include game or other wild animals  
8 owned by the state as provided in chapter 481A.

9 EXPLANATION

10 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
11 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

12 This bill provides that rabbits are considered livestock  
13 subject to certain protections from mistreatment, in the same  
14 manner as cattle, goats, horses, swine, ratites, farm deer, or  
15 poultry. The bill provides that such animals do not include  
16 game or other wild animals managed by the department of natural  
17 resources such as cottontails (Code section 481A.1). The  
18 offenses prohibiting mistreatment include livestock abuse (Code  
19 section 717.1A) and livestock neglect (Code section 717.2) and  
20 associated criminal penalties, including a simple misdemeanor  
21 punishable by confinement for no more than 30 days and a fine  
22 of at least \$105 but not more than \$855; a serious misdemeanor,  
23 punishable by confinement for no more than one year and a fine  
24 of at least \$430 but not more than \$2,560; and an aggravated  
25 misdemeanor punishable by confinement for no more than two  
26 years and a fine of at least \$855 but not more than \$8,540. In  
27 addition, livestock subject to mistreatment may be rescued and  
28 disposed of pursuant to a court order (Code sections 717.2A,  
29 717.3, and 717.5).

30 Generally, offenses involving animal mistreatment involve  
31 either livestock covered under Code chapter 717 or other  
32 animals (exempting game or wildlife) covered under Code chapter  
33 717B. A number of provisions in other Code chapters refer to  
34 livestock as defined in Code section 717.1, by either expressly  
35 including or excluding such animals. Those provisions provide

1 for financing farming operations (Code chapter 15E), disease  
2 control (Code section 159.5(13)), the regulation of pet shops  
3 (Code chapter 162), domestic abuse proceedings (Code chapter  
4 236), cooperative associations (Code chapter 501A), farm  
5 tenancies (Code chapter 562), animal contest events (Code  
6 chapter 717D), and an agricultural theft surcharge (Code  
7 chapter 911).